

**Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet
News Release**

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MAGOFFIN, SIMPSON ISSUED WATER SHORTAGE WARNINGS
Water shortage watch extended

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) Sept. 7, 2007 -- The Division of Water has issued a water shortage warning for Magoffin County in eastern Kentucky and for Simpson County in western Kentucky due to water supply shortages.

A water shortage warning that was issued on Aug. 9 remains in effect for Warren County, including the city of Bowling Green, due to persistent low flows in the Barren River.

The water shortage warning for Magoffin County is due to a shortage of water in the Licking River. The warning for Simpson County is due to low water in the West Fork of Drakes Creek.

The Division of Water is extending a water shortage watch originally issued June 14 for 61 counties to now include all or portions of Breathitt, Floyd, Knott, Perry and Pike counties in eastern Kentucky.

The extreme drought conditions that remain across most of Kentucky intensified throughout August and into September with record high temperatures and a persistent lack of rainfall. For the month of August alone, rainfall deficits of 3 to 4 inches were common across eastern, south-central and western Kentucky.

Rainfall in southeastern Kentucky, centered over the headwaters of the Kentucky and Licking rivers, is at least 14 inches below normal for the year. Similar rainfall deficits are present across most of southern Kentucky and in the Jackson Purchase region.

Drought conditions have prompted at least 30 public water systems across the state to implement some level of water conservation measures. Many of these actions are in the form of voluntary advisories or limited mandatory restrictions on outdoor water use.

September and October are typically the driest months of the year in Kentucky. Residents should be aware of the increasing potential for water shortages, especially in the 67-county water shortage watch/warning area. Citizens in the watch and warning areas are encouraged to adhere to all requests made by their local water supplier to help reduce water demand.

Counties for which the water shortage watch is in effect:

Western Climatic Division – Muhlenberg, Ohio.

Central Climatic Division – Adair, Allen, Barren, Butler, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Green, Hart, LaRue, Marion, Metcalfe, Monroe, Nelson, Russell, Taylor.

Bluegrass Climatic Division – Anderson, Bath, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Montgomery, Nicholas, Owen, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Washington, Woodford.

Eastern Climatic Division – Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, McCreary, Menifee, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe.

Counties for which the water shortage warning is in effect:

Western Climatic Division – Simpson

Central Climatic Division – Warren

Eastern Climatic Division - Magoffin

For more information on drought conditions, water availability and conservation tips, visit the Division of Water's drought Web site at:

<http://www.water.ky.gov/wateruse/drought/>

